

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A pipe coupling for coupling adjacent ends of a pair of pipe sections where one of the pipe sections is formed of a polyolefin and the other pipe section is formed of a different material, the coupling comprising:

an adapter formed of a length of pipe having a polyolefin pipe wall, the adapter having a fusing end for fusing to a successive length of polyolefin pipe and a coupling end;

wherein the coupling end of the adapter has a nominal thickness pipe wall with an integral flange formed at one end thereof,

wherein the integral flange defines a bell end opening for the adapter, the bell end opening having a first region of reduced internal diameter for receiving a sealing gasket therein, the sealing gasket being conically profiled when viewed in cross section having an inner extent and an outer extent, the bell end opening also having a second region of further reduced internal diameter which forms a circumferential shoulder region therein for receiving a male spigot end of a mating pipe which is formed of the different material;

the adapter integral flange having a front face, a rear face and an outer peripheral surface, and wherein a rigid metal reinforcing ring is closely received upon and circumscribes the outer peripheral surface forming an outer sleeve thereon in order to strengthen the connection and prevent extrusion of the sealing gasket when the spigot end of a mating male pipe is inserted within the bell end opening of the adapter to form the pipe coupling, the first region of reduced internal diameter

forming a sloping conical surface for receiving the conically profiled sealing gasket, the outer extent of the sealing gasket being located approximately flush with the front face of the integral flange of the adapter.

Claim 2 (original): The pipe coupling of claim 1, wherein the length of pipe having the polyolefin wall is formed of polyethylene.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A pipe joint, comprising:

a first section of pipe having a polyolefin pipe wall and a second section of pipe of a different material;

an adapter formed of a length of pipe having a polyolefin pipe wall, the adapter having a fusing end which is fused to the first section of pipe, the adapter also having a coupling end;

wherein the coupling end of the adapter is joined to the fusing end by a nominal thickness pipe wall with an integral flange being formed on the coupling end thereof,

wherein the integral flange defines a bell end opening for the adapter, the bell end opening having a first region of reduced internal diameter for receiving a sealing gasket therein, the sealing gasket being conically profiled when viewed in cross section having an inner extent and an outer extent, the bell end opening also having a second region of further reduced internal diameter which forms a circumferential shoulder region therein for receiving a male spigot end of a mating pipe which is formed of the different material;

the adapter integral flange having a front face, a rear face and an outer peripheral surface, and wherein a rigid metal reinforcing ring is closely received upon and circumscribes the outer peripheral surface forming an outer sleeve thereon in order to strengthen the connection and prevent extrusion of the sealing gasket when the spigot end of a mating male pipe is inserted within the bell end

opening of the adapter to form the pipe coupling, the first region of reduced internal diameter forming a sloping conical surface for receiving the conically profiled sealing gasket, the outer extent of the sealing gasket being located approximately flush with the front face of the integral flange of the adapter;

a sealing gasket installed within the second region of reduced internal diameter of the integral flange;
and

a male spigot pipe end of the second section of pipe being inserted within the bell end opening and engaging the circumferential shoulder region thereof to thereby form a sealed pipe joint.

Claim 4 (original): The pipe joint of claim 3, wherein the length of pipe having the polyolefin wall is formed of polyethylene.

Claim 5 (original): The pipe joint of claim 3, wherein the length of pipe of a different material is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of PVC, ductile iron, cast iron and steel.

Claim 6 (original): The pipe joint of claim 3, further comprising a mechanical restraint system which engages an external surface of the second section of pipe and the front face and rear face of the integral flange, respectively, in order to prevent the second section of pipe from pulling away from the bell end opening of the integral flange.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The pipe joint of claim 5 6, wherein the restraint system includes a pair of restraint rings which are located on opposite sides of the integral flange of the pipe joint.

Claims 8-12 (canceled)